

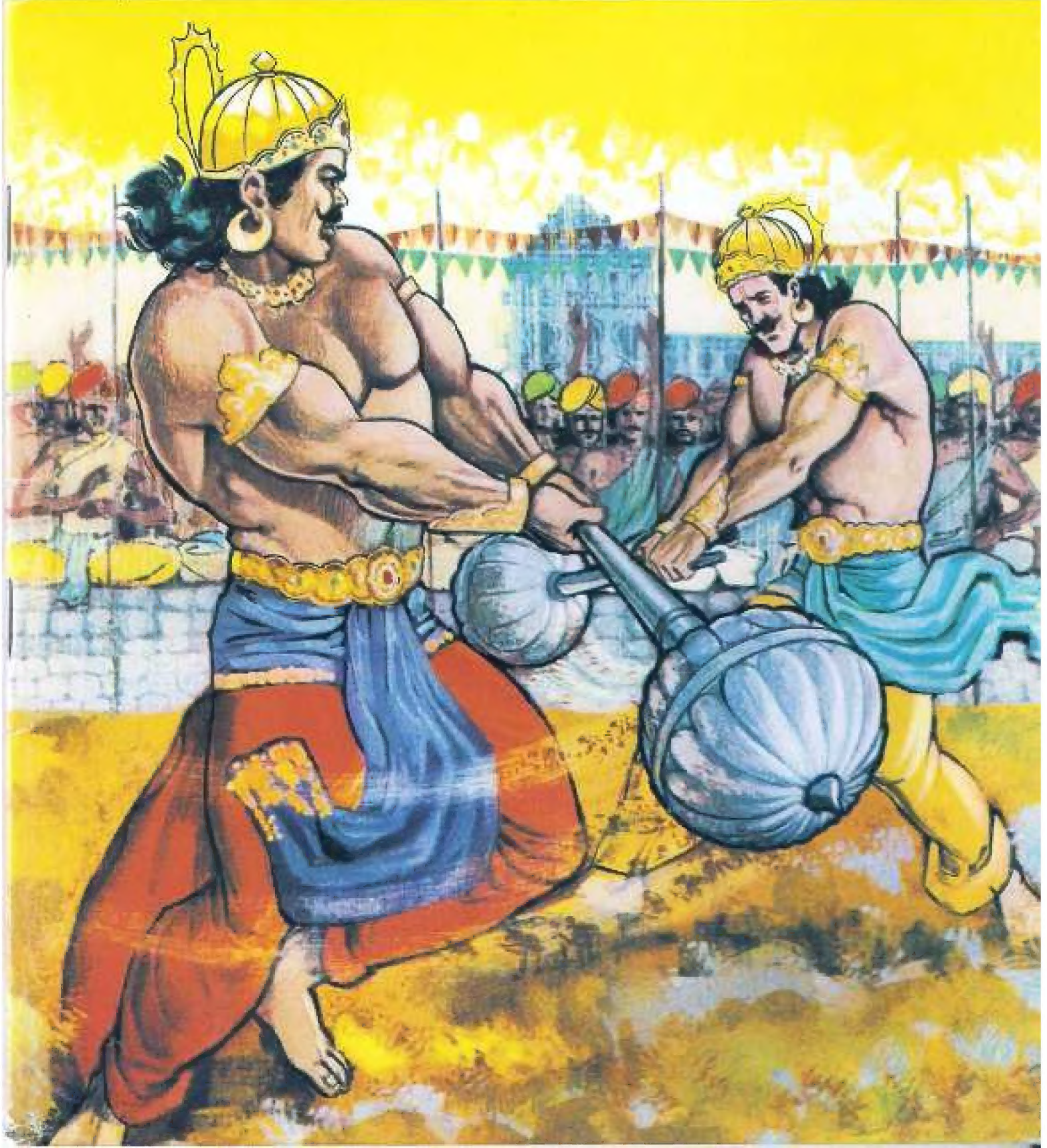


# THE PANDAVA PRINCES

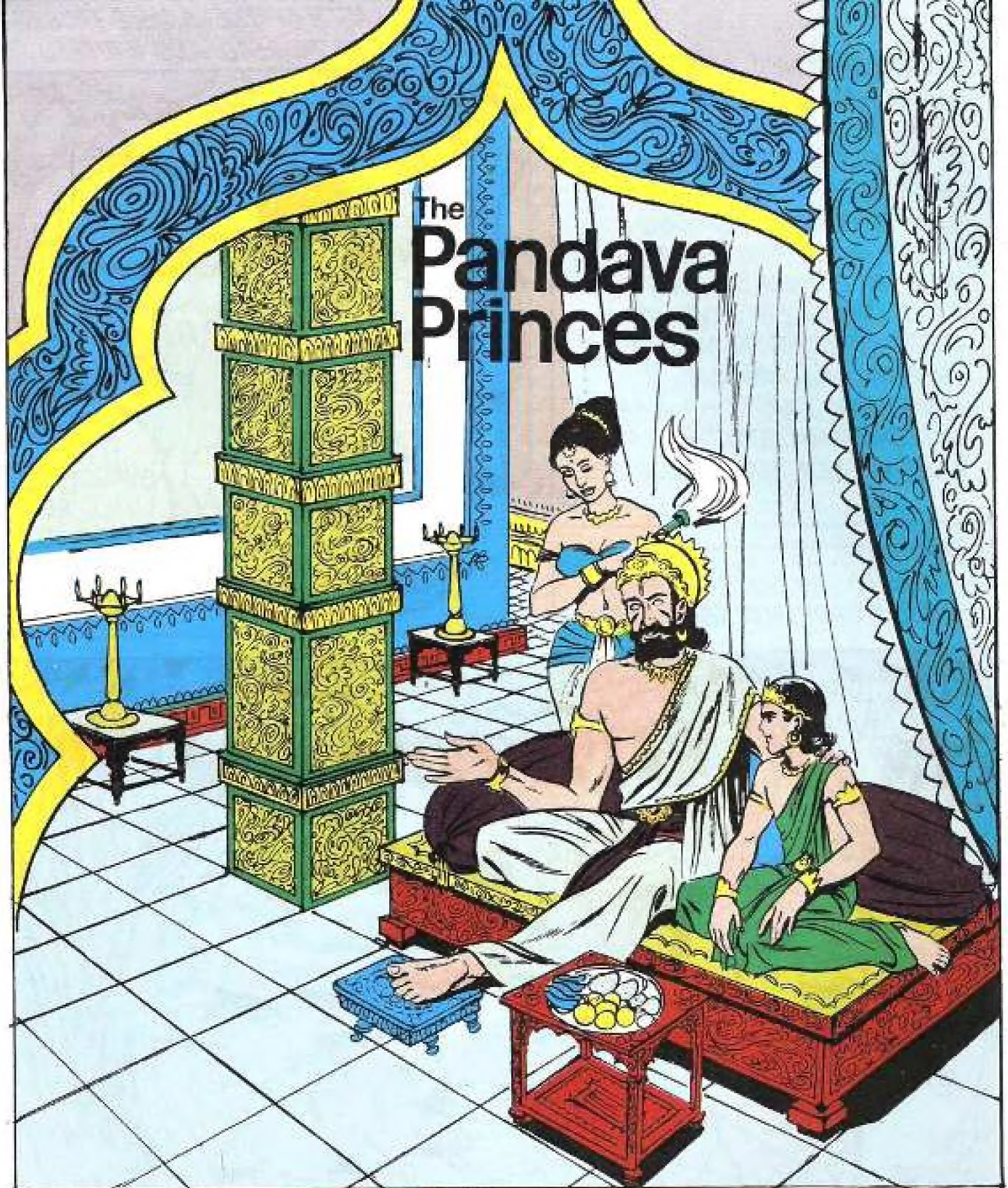
PANDU'S FIVE BRAVE SONS

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THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, INDIA WAS DIVIDED INTO MANY SOVEREIGN STATES. ONE OF THEM WAS HASTINAPURA, RULED BY THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA. HE HAD A HUNDRED SONS, WHO WERE CALLED THE KAURAVAS. THE ELDEST WAS DURYODHANA.



DHRITARASHTRA'S BROTHER PANDU, HAD RULED THE KINGDOM EARLIER, BUT HE HAD RETIRED TO THE FOREST, BECAUSE OF CONTINUED ILLNESS. PANDU HAD TWO WIVES- KUNTI AND MADRI. THERE IN COURSE OF TIME, THREE SONS WERE BORN TO KUNTI- YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA AND ARJUNA. MADRI HAD TWO SONS- NAKULA AND SAHADEVA. TOGETHER THEY WERE CALLED THE PANDAVAS.

THE HARD JUNGLE LIFE MADE THEM STURDY AND FEARLESS.

THE GREAT SAGES OF THE JUNGLE TAUGHT THE PANDAVAS TO READ AND WRITE.





WHEN PANDU DIED, MADRI BURNT HERSELF ON THE PYRE. SAGE VYASA CAME TO CONSOLE KUNTI.



ARJUNA ! I HEARD FROM MOTHER THAT WE ARE LEAVING FOR HASTINAPURA TOMORROW



AT THE PALACE, YOU WILL MEET BHEESHMA, YOUR GREAT GRAND UNCLE, VIDURA, THE WISE MINISTER AND...

...OUR HUNDRED COUSINS! I WONDER HOW OUR UNCLE REMEMBERS THEIR NAMES!

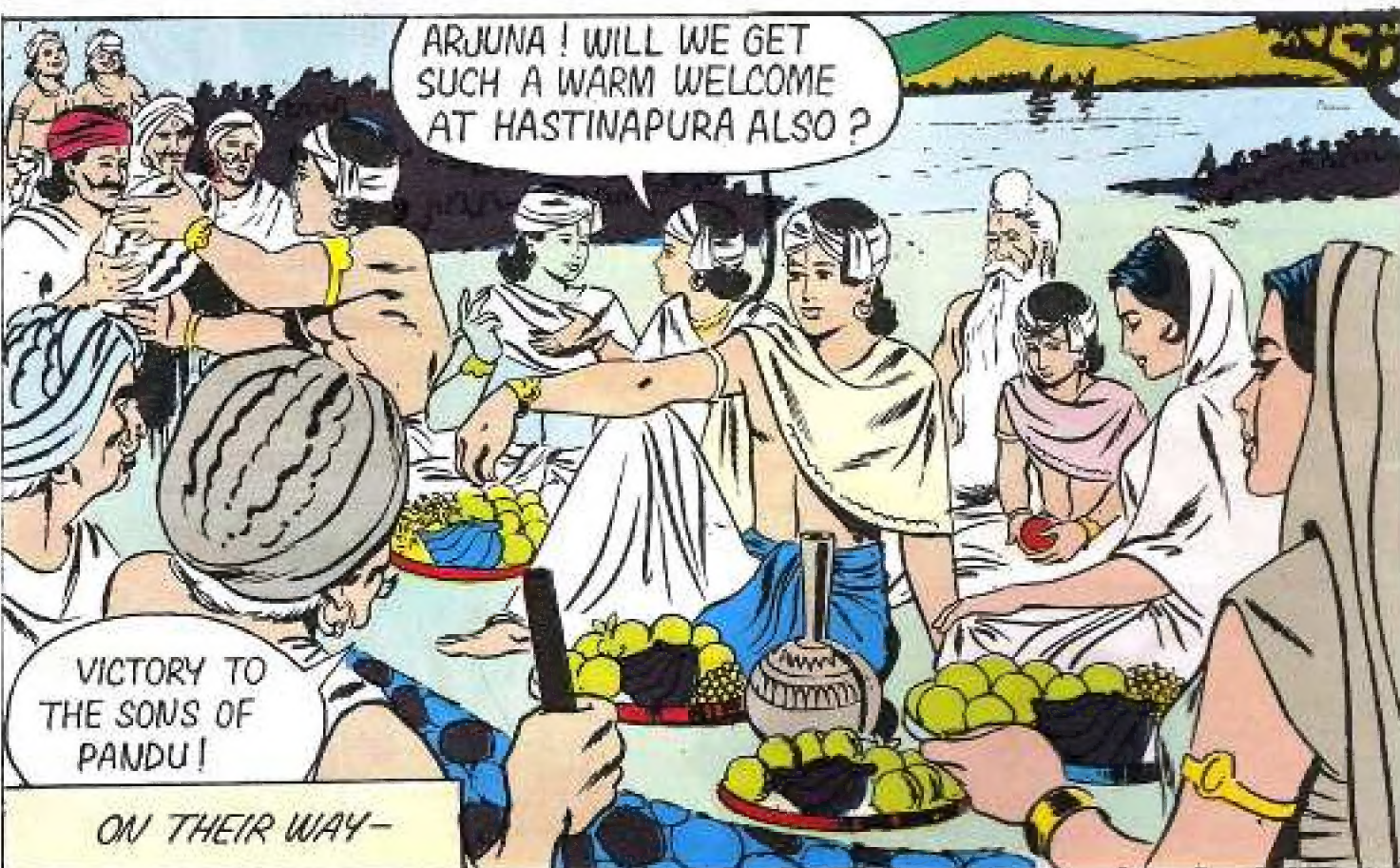
NEXT DAY—



ARJUNA ! WILL WE GET SUCH A WARM WELCOME AT HASTINAPURA ALSO ?

VICTORY TO THE SONS OF PANDU !

ON THEIR WAY—





COME, MY  
SONS.

AT THE PALACE, THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA  
WELCOMED THEM WITH A SHOW OF LOVE.



SONS INDEED! AND  
WHO ARE WE?



BHEESHMA, THEIR GREAT GRAND UNCLE,  
LOVED THEM AS MUCH AS HE DID THE  
KAURAVAS.

DUHSHASANA! DURYODHANA!  
LIVE TOGETHER AS  
BROTHERS WITH THE  
PANDAVAS.



BE WORTHY SONS  
OF THE GREAT  
PANDU.



VIDURA TOO,  
BLESSED THEM.

AS THE DAYS PASSED,  
DURYODHANA'S HATRED OF  
THE PANDAVAS GREW.

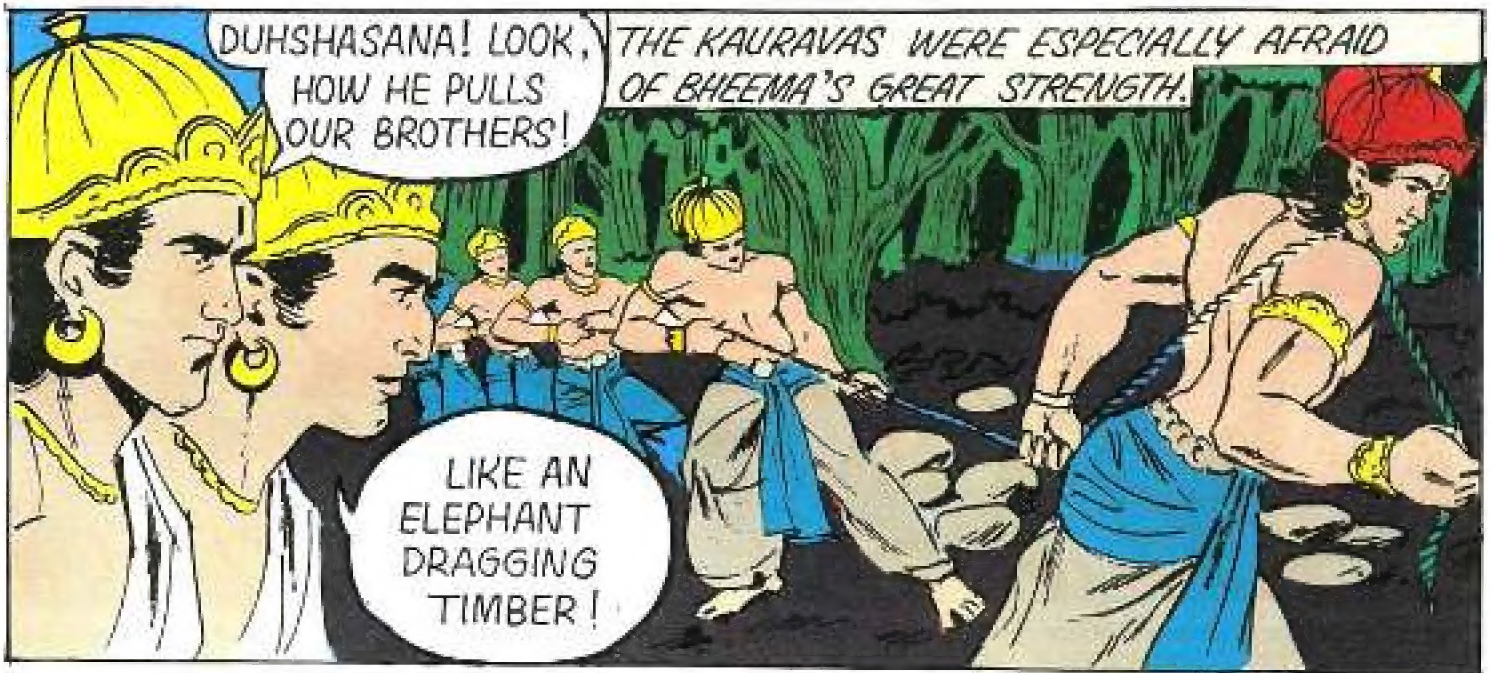
THIS YUDHISHTHIRA MAY ONE DAY BECOME THE  
CROWN PRINCE.

AN HONOUR WHICH  
IS YOURS BY RIGHT,  
DURYODHANA!





THE KAURAVAS ENVIED THE FIVE PRINCES.





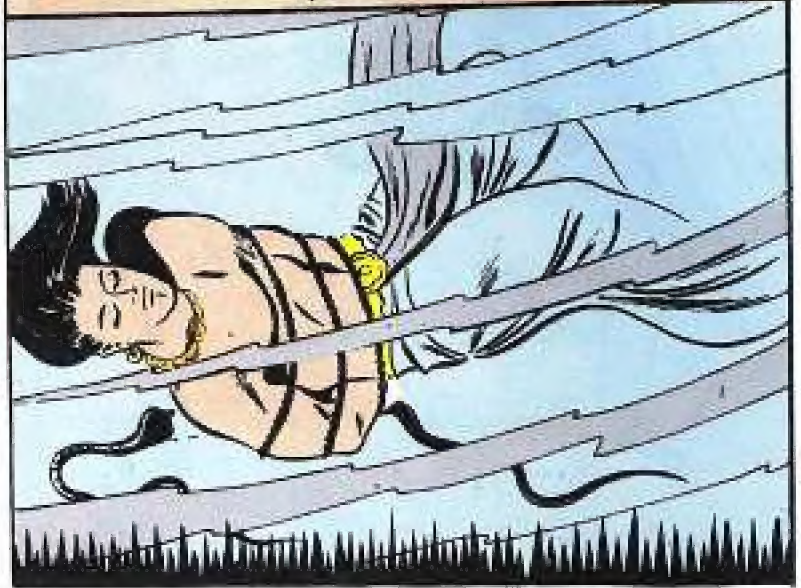




NEAR THE PALACE GATES,  
YUDHISHTHIRA MET DURYODHANA.



IN THE RIVER, BHEEMA ESCAPED  
THE IRON SPIKES, BUT THE SNAKES BIT HIM.



THE SNAKE POISON ACTED AGAINST  
THE POISONED FOOD WHICH HE HAD  
EATEN.



HE TWITCHED HIS MUSCLES TILL THE  
BONDS BURST.



SOON HE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND REACHED THE PALACE.

HELLO,  
DURYODHANA!  
THE SNAKES  
SEND YOU  
THEIR  
LOVE.

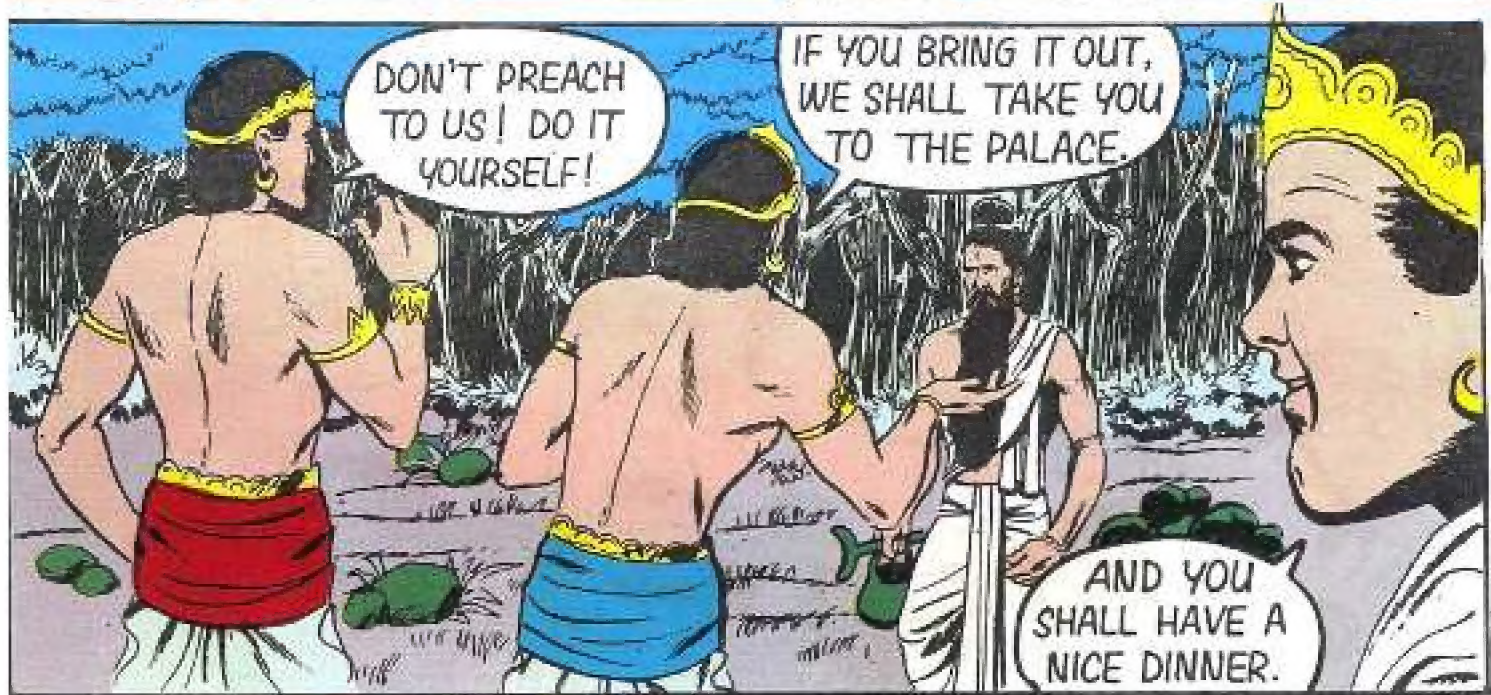
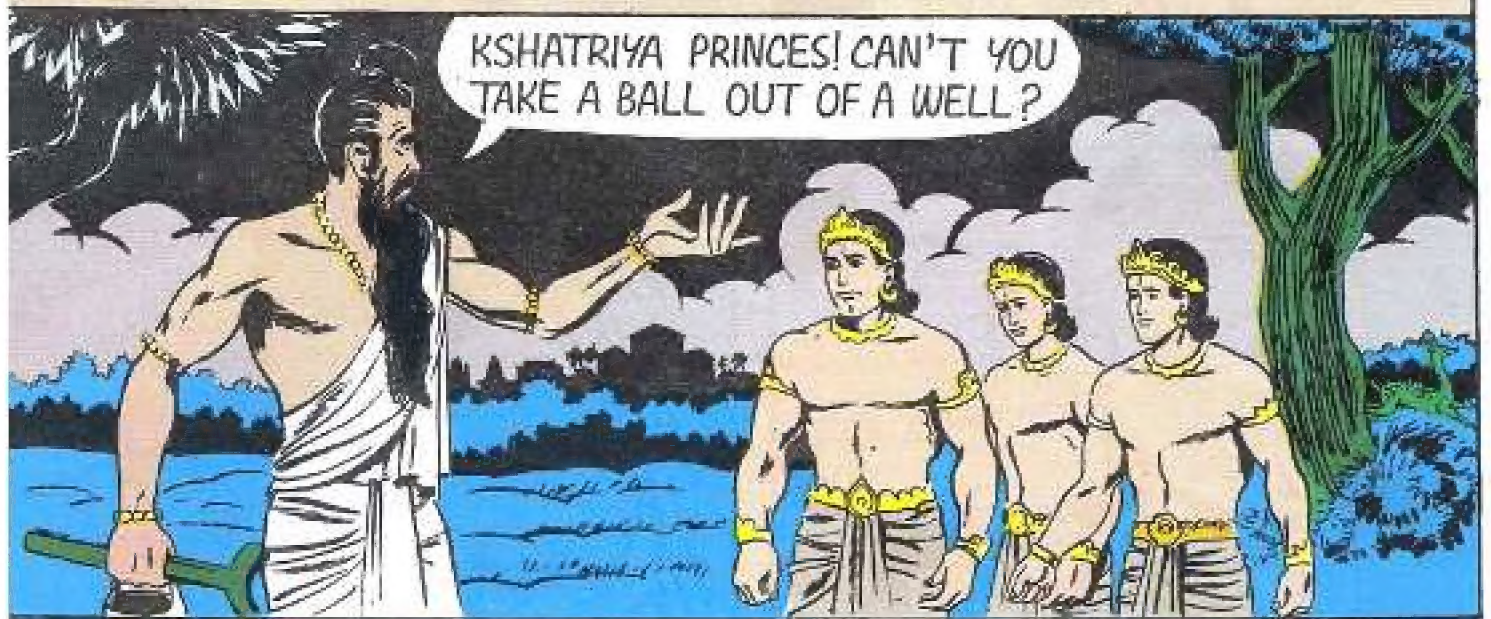




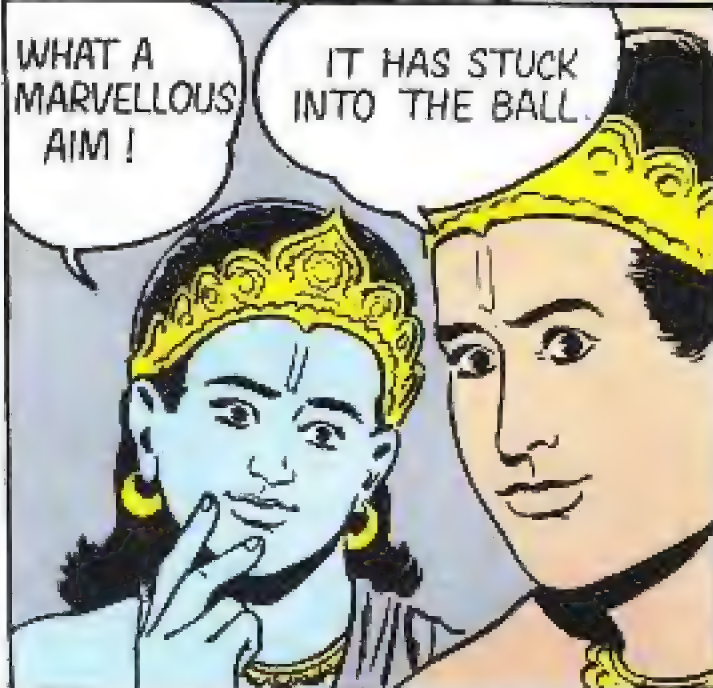




A POORLY-CLAD BRAHMAN APPROACHED THEM







WHEN HE PULLED THE CHAIN, THE BALL CAME OUT WITH IT.

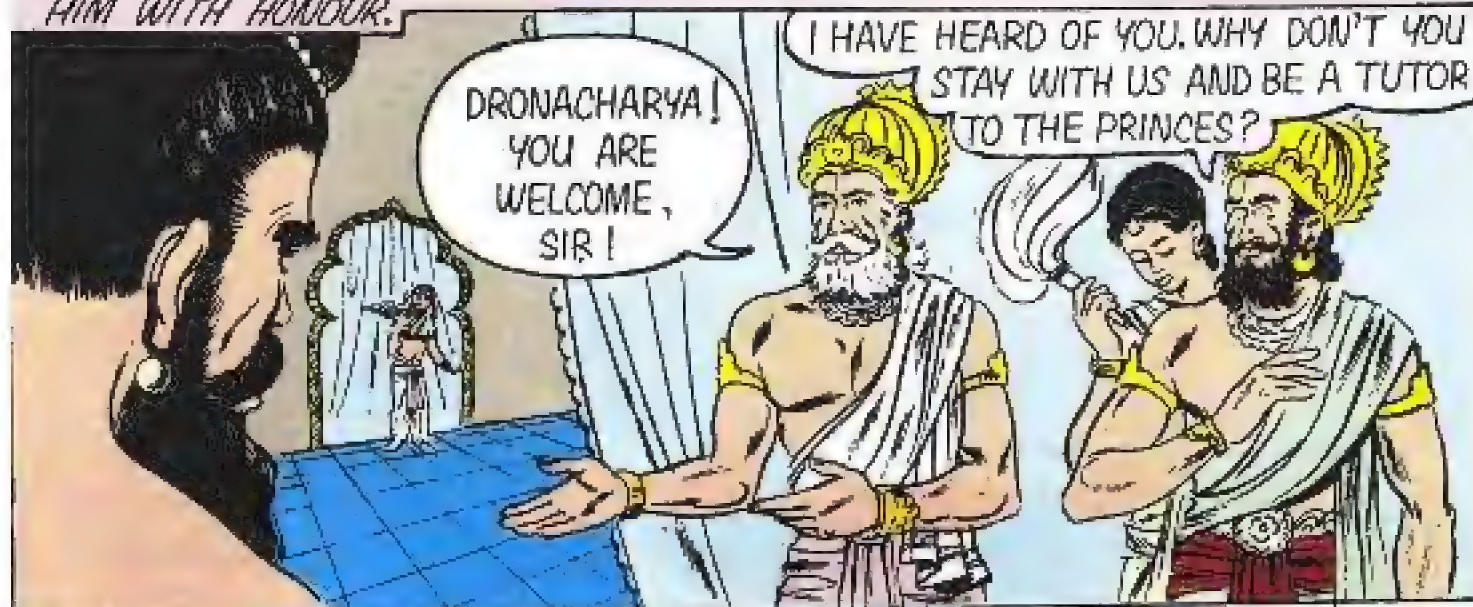


THE BRAHMAN SENT AN ARROW STRAIGHT INTO THE WELL. IT BOUNCED BACK BRINGING WITH IT THE PRECIOUS RING.





AT THE COURT, BHEESHMA RECOGNISED HIM. KING DHRITARASHTRA RECEIVED HIM WITH HONOUR.



THE PRINCES LEARNT THE ARTS OF WAR FROM DRONACHARYA.



ONE DAY, DRONA HELD A CONTEST TO WHICH THE KING WAS INVITED. A BIG CROWD CAME TO WITNESS THE FEATS.





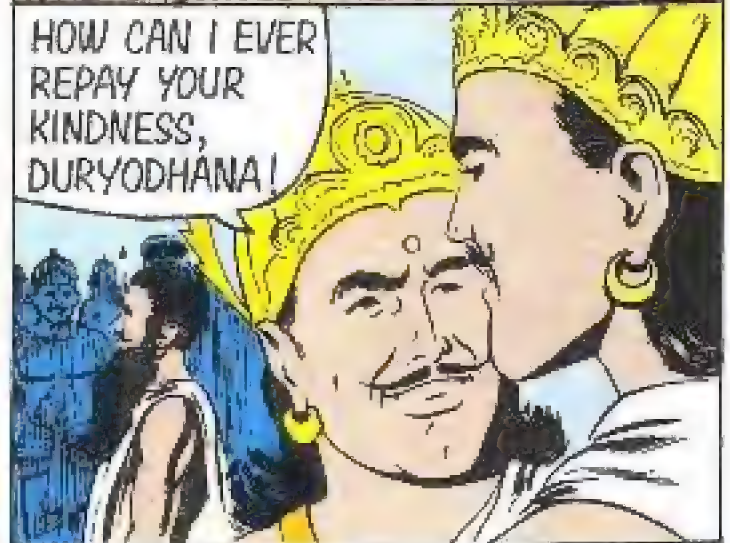
DURYODHANA INSTANTLY TOOK A LIKING FOR KARNA. BY BEFRIENDING HIM, HE WANTED TO HUMILIATE ARJUNA.

FRIEND KARNA!  
I PROMISE  
YOU THE  
KINGDOM  
OF ANGA.



AFTER OBTAINING THE PERMISSION OF KING DHRITARASHTRA, KARNA WAS CROWNED THERE AND THEN.

HOW CAN I EVER  
REPAY YOUR  
KINDNESS,  
DURYODHANA!



THE QUICKNESS OF DURYODHANA'S ACTION ASTONISHED THE WHOLE GATHERING.

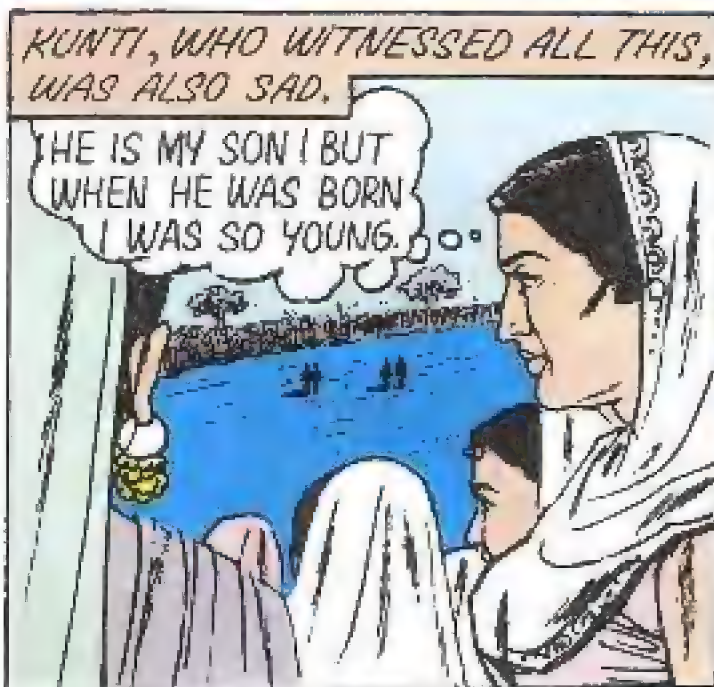
THAT DOES NOT  
SOLVE THE PROBLEM.  
HE CANNOT HIDE  
HIS LOW BIRTH.

COME, KARNA!  
DON'T LET  
ARJUNA'S REMARK  
BOTHER YOU.



KUNTI, WHO WITNESSED ALL THIS,  
WAS ALSO SAD.

HE IS MY SON! BUT  
WHEN HE WAS BORN  
I WAS SO YOUNG.



"I CAST HIM  
AWAY. THIS  
CHARIOTEER MUST  
HAVE FOUND HIM"

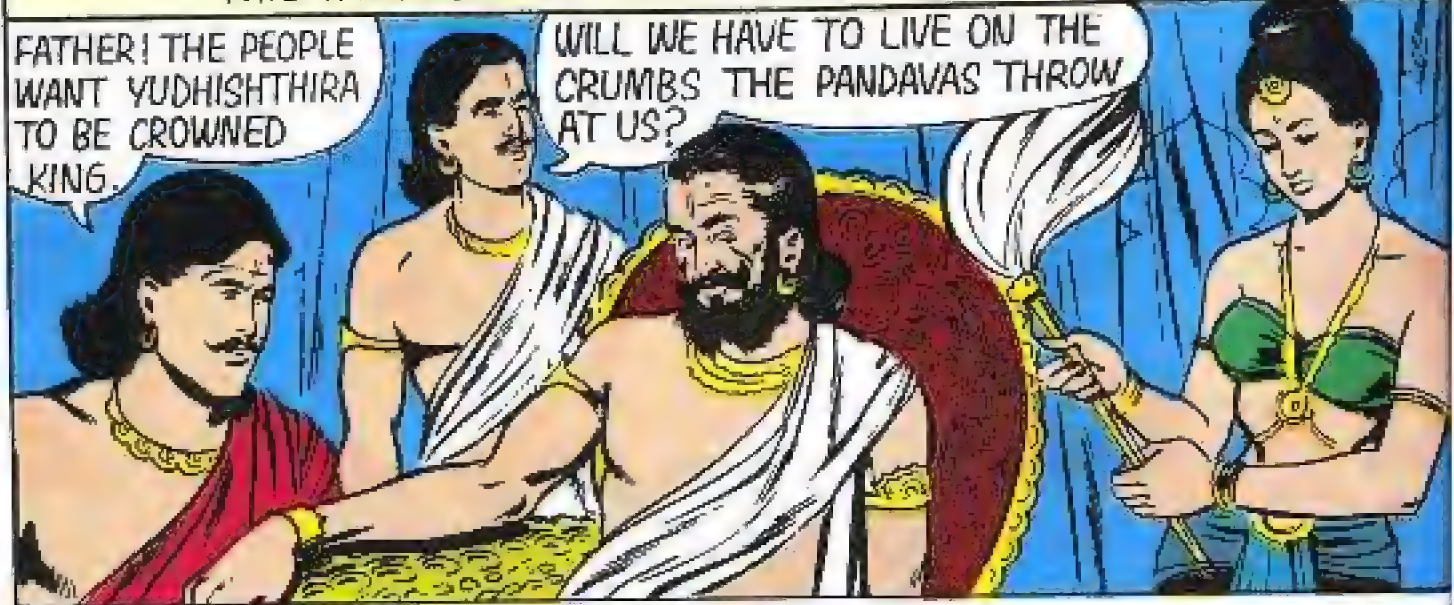




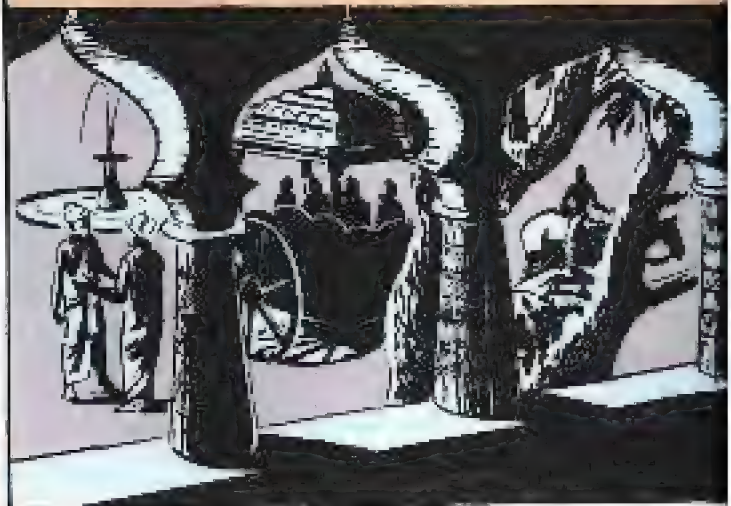
THE PANDAVA PRINCES WERE LOVED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



THIS TALK REACHED THE EARS OF DURYODHANA.



SO THE PANDAVAS WERE SENT TO VARANAVATI TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL BEING HELD THERE.





DURYODHANA WHISPERED SOMETHING  
IN THE EARS OF PUROCHANA,  
A CLEVER BUT SLY ARCHITECT.



VIDURA WARNED YUDHISHTHIRA  
TO BE CAREFUL.



WELCOME TO  
THE PANDAVA  
PRINCES.



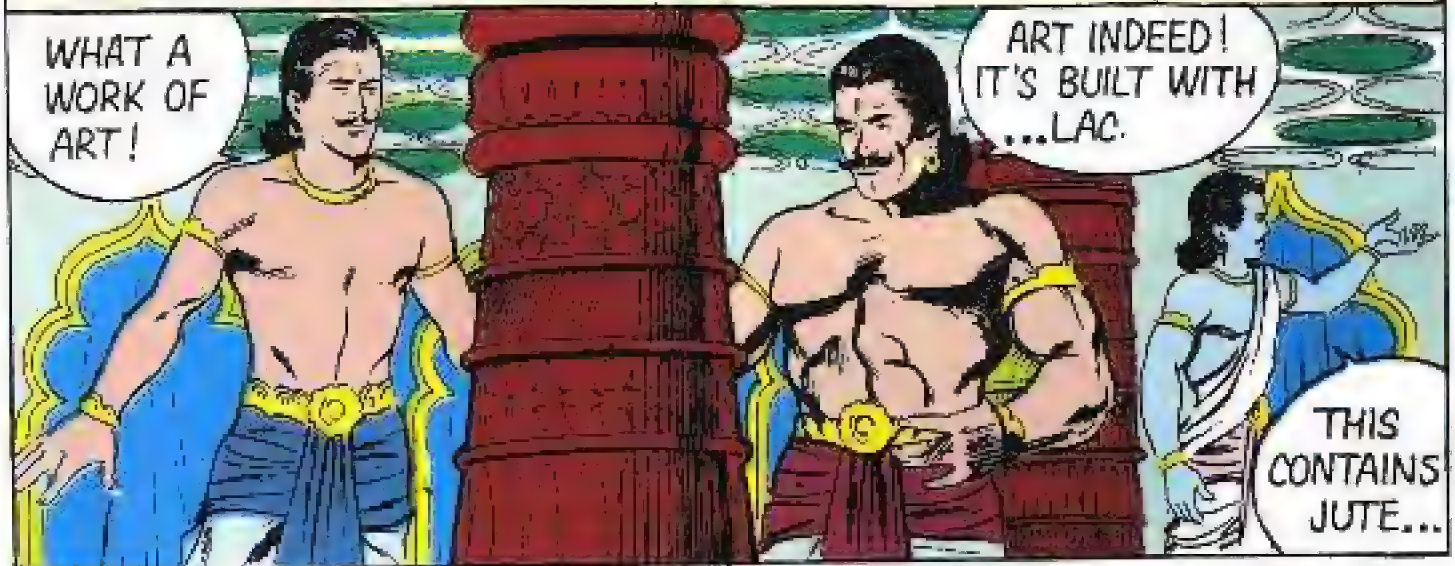
AT VARANAVATI-

WHEN PUROCHANA FINISHED BUILDING A GRAND PALACE FOR THE  
PANDAVAS, THEY MOVED INTO IT.

WHAT A  
WORK OF  
ART!

ART INDEED!  
IT'S BUILT WITH  
...LAC.

THIS  
CONTAINS  
JUTE...





THE PANDAVAS WERE  
CORRECT.

EVEN THIS  
ARTIFICIAL GARDEN  
HAS FLOWERS AND  
LEAVES OF  
WAX.

WE  
ARE CAUGHT  
IN A TRAP.

EVERY DAY THEY WENT HUNTING AND MADE THEMSELVES FAMILIAR  
WITH THE PATHS OF THE JUNGLE.

WHEN PUROCHANA SETS  
FIRE TO THE PALACE WE  
SHALL TAKE SHELTER  
HERE.

BUT WHY WAIT  
FOR HIM TO SET  
IT ON FIRE?

ONE DAY-

THANK  
YOU.

I AM A MINER!  
ACHARYA VIDURA  
HAS SENT ME TO  
HELP YOU.

THE MINER  
HAS DONE  
A GOOD JOB OF  
THIS TUNNEL.



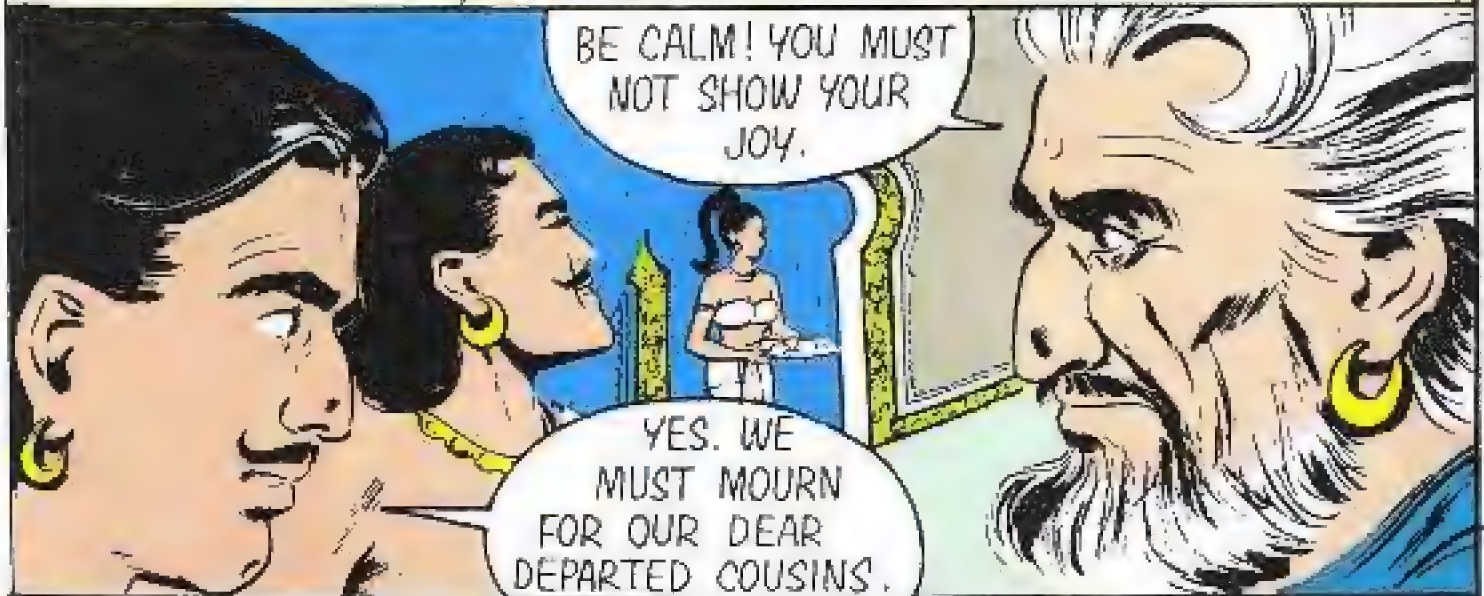


IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE WHOLE PALACE WAS REDUCED TO ASHES. PUROCHANA WAS BURNT ALIVE IN THE TRAP WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SET.

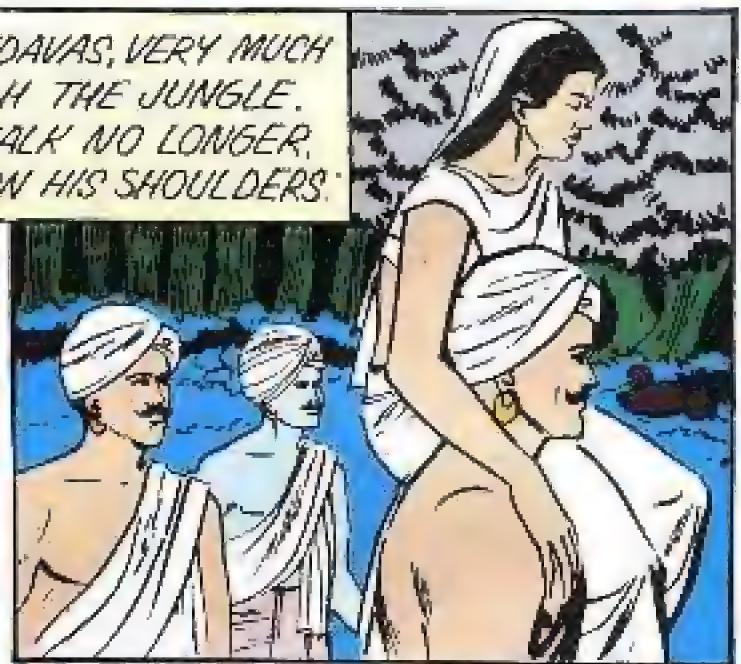
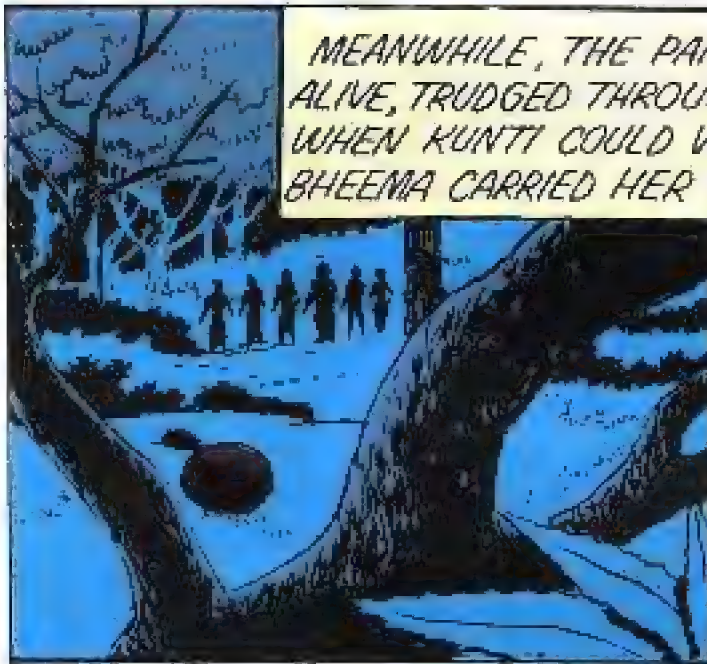




WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HASTINAPURA, DURYODHANA AND DUHSHASANA WERE HAPPY. SHAKUNI, THEIR WICKED UNCLE, CAUTIONED THEM.



MEANWHILE, THE PANDAVAS, VERY MUCH ALIVE, TRUDGED THROUGH THE JUNGLE. WHEN KUNTI COULD WALK NO LONGER, BHEEMA CARRIED HER ON HIS SHOULDERS.



HE EVEN TOOK NARULA AND SAHADEVA ON HIS HIPS.



LATE IN THE EVENING, THE NEXT DAY, THEY REACHED THE RIVER GANGA. GREETINGS FROM ACHARYA VIDURA. HE ASKED ME TO WAIT FOR YOU.





AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER, THEY ENTERED A DENSE FOREST.



THEY LAY DOWN TO REST. BHEEMA ALONE STAYED AWAKE.



FOR MANY DAYS THEY WANDERED. UP AND DOWN THE HILLS, THEY TREKKED. AT LAST IT SEEMED THAT THEY WERE NEAR SOME HUMAN HABITATION.



BUT THE RAKSHASAS WERE SOON ON THEIR TRAIL. BHEEMA FACED THEM WITH AN UPROOTED TREE.





HIDAMBASURA, THE RAKSHASA CHIEF, STEPPED FORWARD AND TRIED TO SNATCH THE TREE FROM BHEEMA'S HAND.



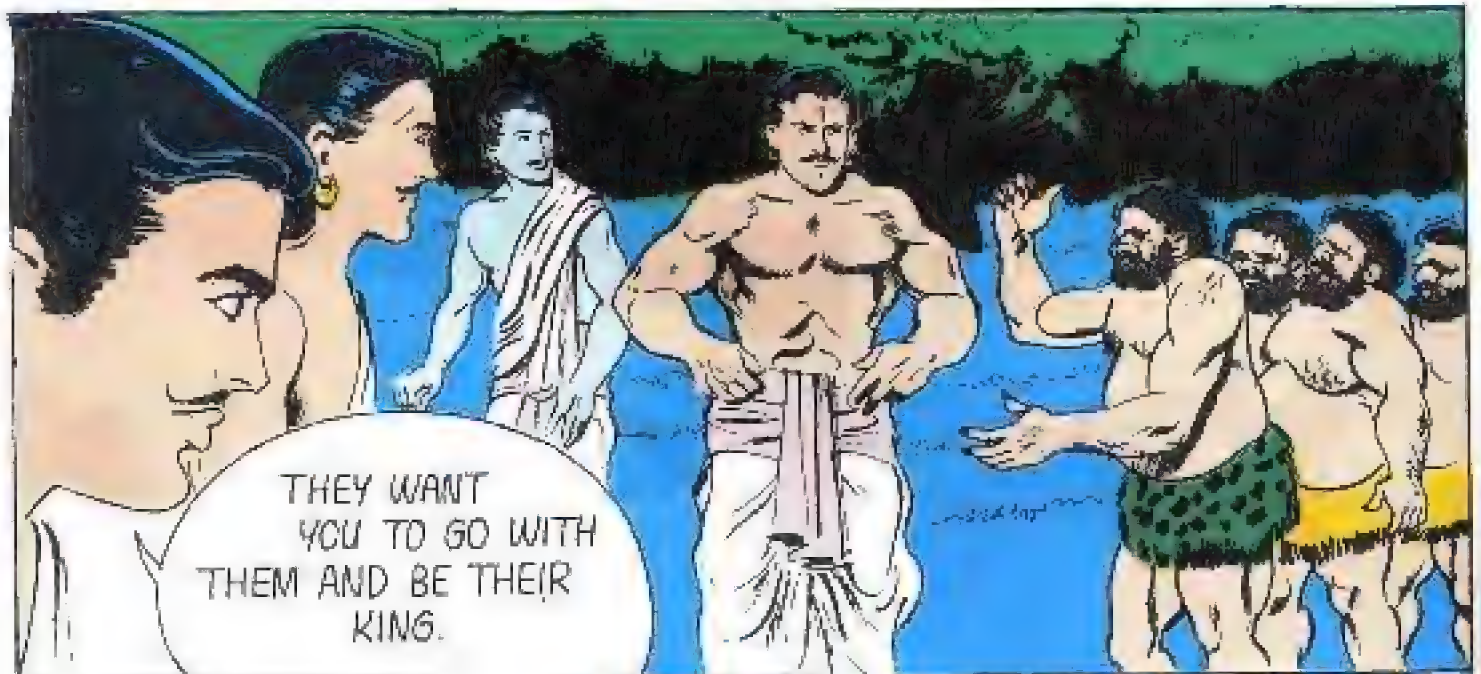
A FIERCE DUEL FOLLOWED...



... IN WHICH HIDIMBASURA WAS KILLED.



SOON—

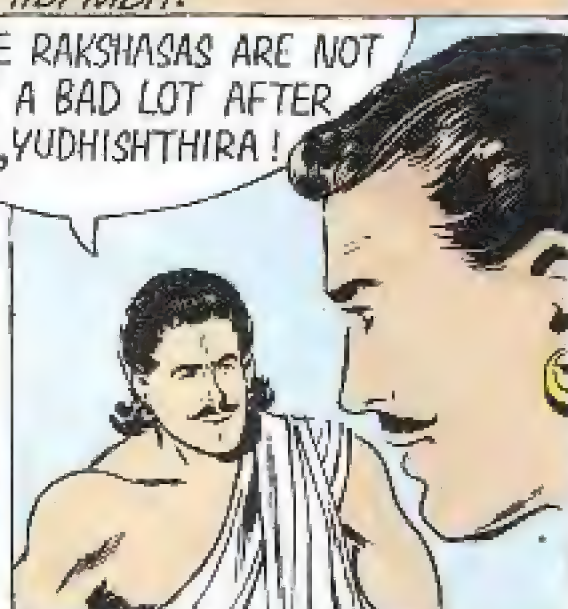




THE PANDAVAS ACCOMPANIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE AND THERE BHEEMA MARRIED HIDIMBAA THE SISTER OF HIDI MBA.



THESE RAKSHASAS ARE NOT SUCH A BAD LOT AFTER ALL, YUDHISHTHIRA!



AFTER SOME DAYS—

BHEEMA! I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE. LET US GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.



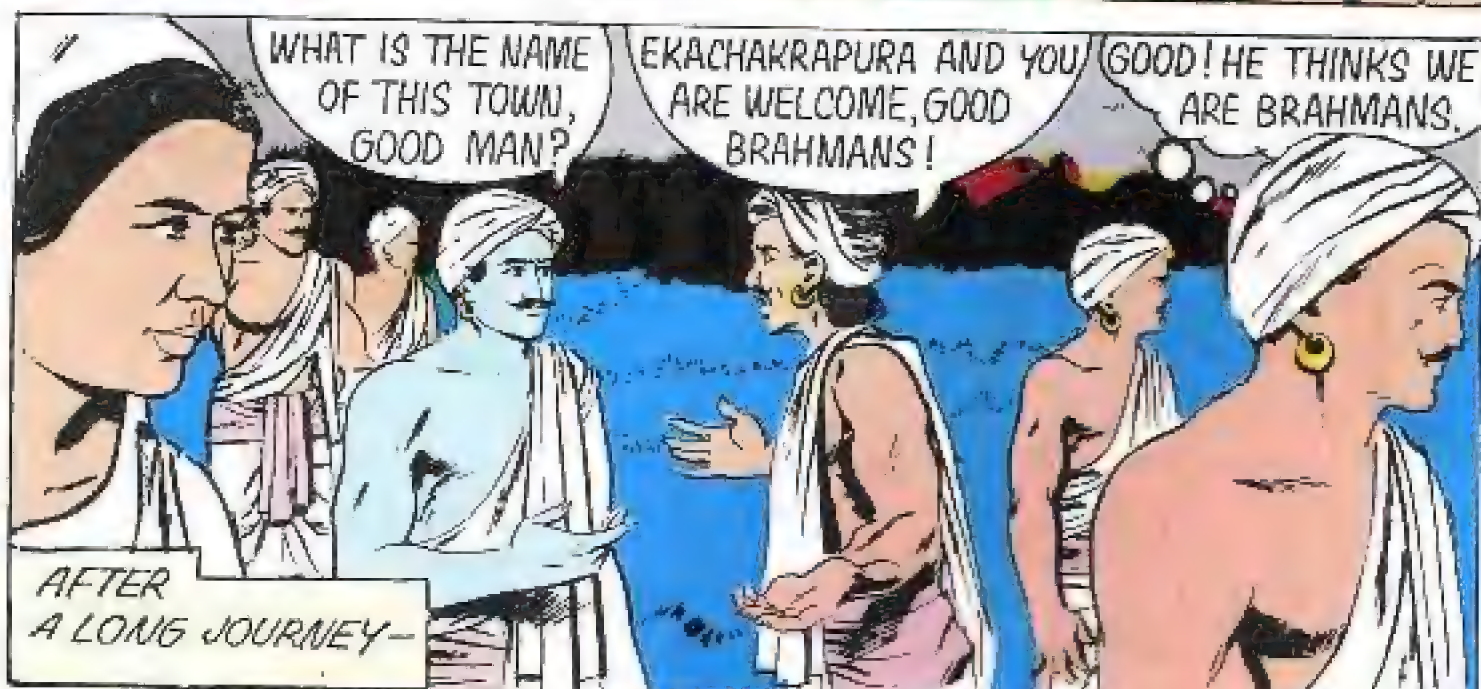
AS YOU WISH, BROTHER!



WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS TOWN, GOOD MAN?

EKACHAKRAPURA AND YOU ARE WELCOME, GOOD BRAHMANS!

GOOD! HE THINKS WE ARE BRAHMANS.



AFTER A LONG JOURNEY—



IN EKACHAKRAPURA, THE PANDAVAS LIVED IN THE HOUSE OF A POOR BRAHMAN. ONE DAY—

WHAT IS THE MATTER, GOOD BRAHMAN?

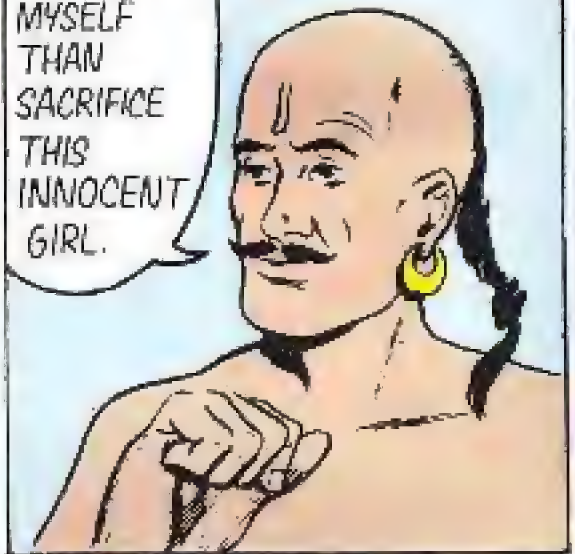
THIS LITTLE DAUGHTER OF OURS WILL SOON BE EATEN BY BAKASURA, WHO LIVES IN A CAVE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.



HE HAS EXTRACTED TERMS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE HAVE TO SEND HIM A CART-LOAD OF FOOD EVERY DAY. HE EATS THE DRIVER AND BULLOCKS ALSO, ALONG WITH THE FOOD.



I WOULD RATHER GO MYSELF THAN SACRIFICE THIS INNOCENT GIRL.



OH, NO! IF YOU GO, WHO WILL LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY? I WILL GO.

LET ME GO, MOTHER. I WILL KILL THE RAKSHASA WITH A STICK.

YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, SON!

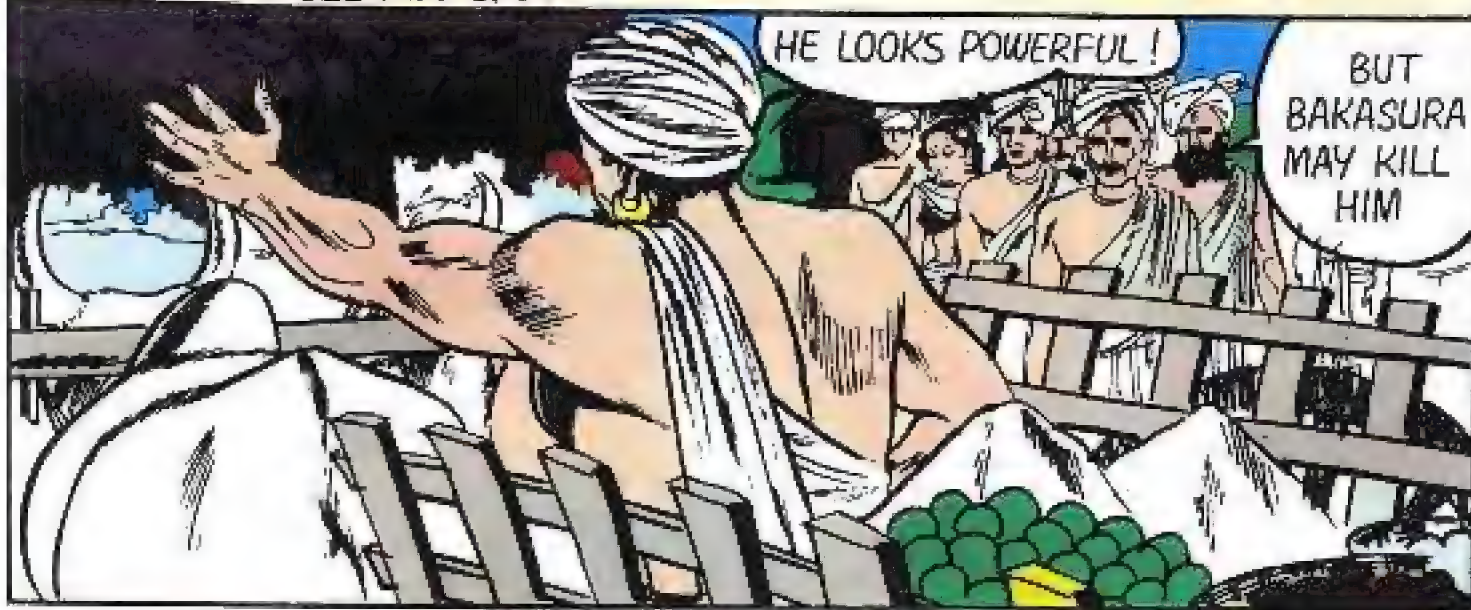


AS YOU WISH, MOTHER!

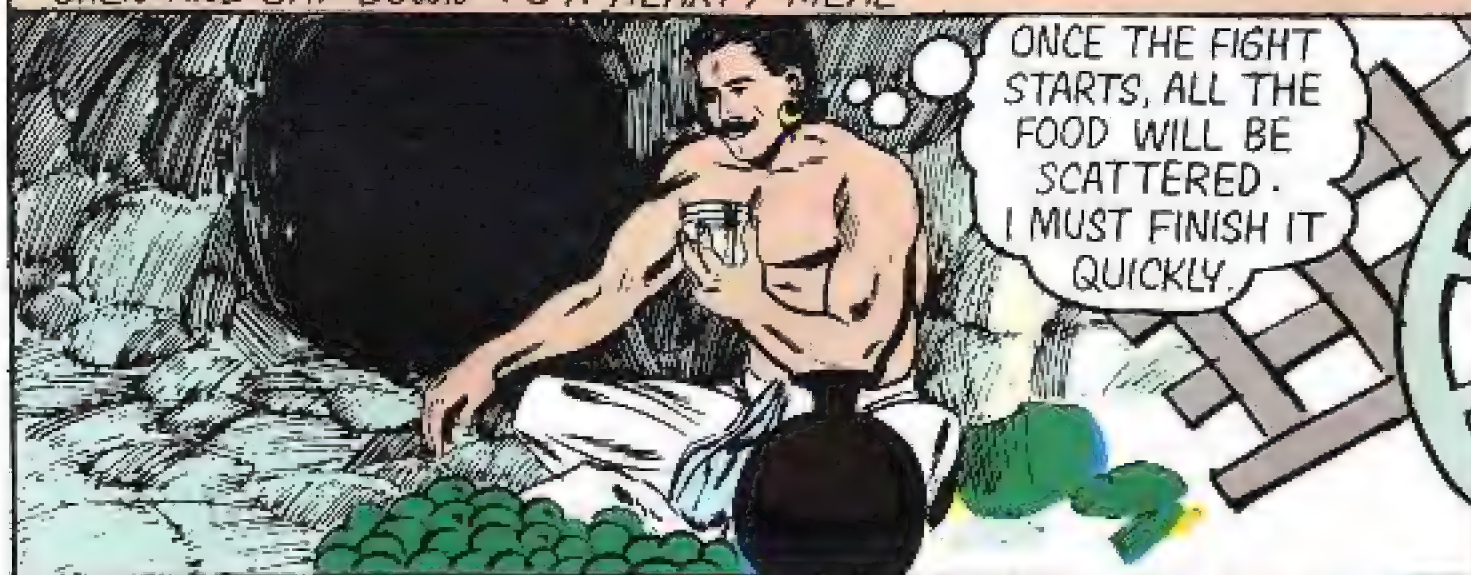
LATER—



BHEEMA DROVE THE CART OF FOOD TO THE BORDER OF THE TOWN. PEOPLE FLOCKED TO SEE HIM OFF.



WHEN BHEEMA REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE, HE UNYOKED THE OXEN AND SAT DOWN TO A HEARTY MEAL.



WHEN BAKASURA CAME OUT OF THE CAVE, HE WAS ENRAGED AT WHAT HE SAW.





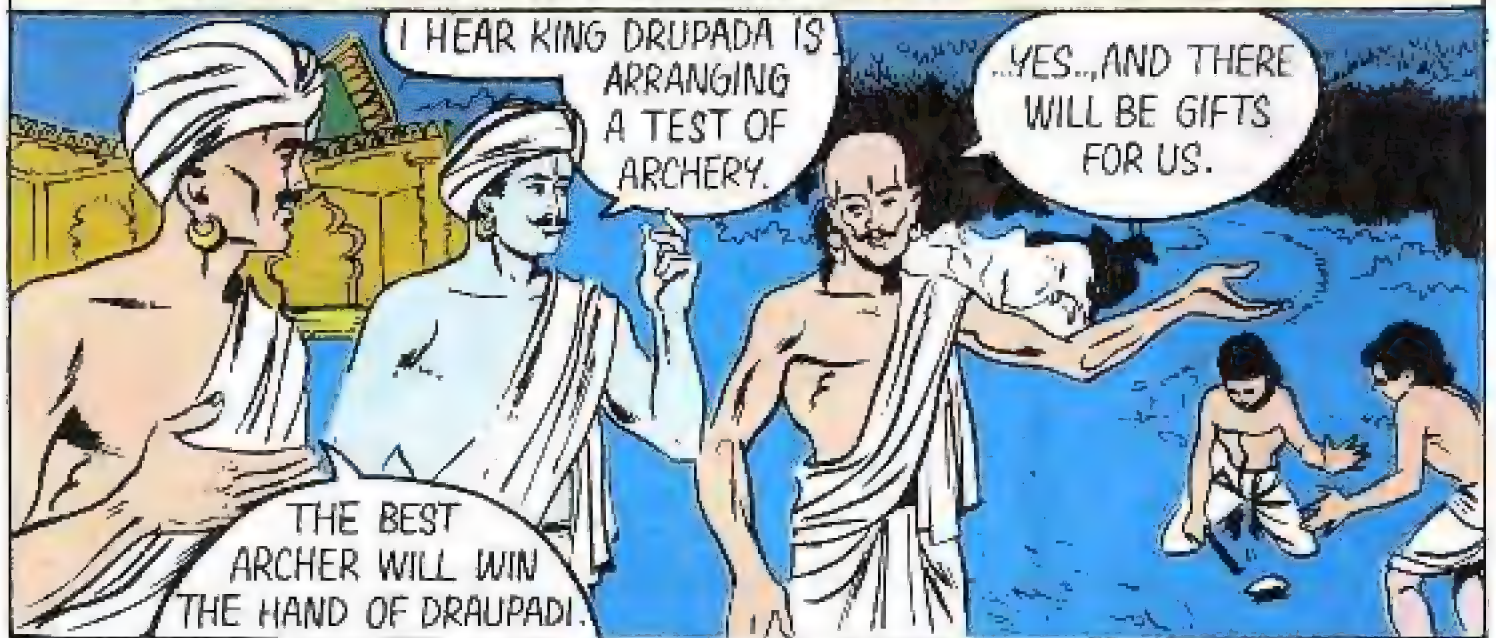


BHEEMA DRAGGED THE DEAD BODY OF THE GIANT TO THE GATE OF THE CITY AND QUIETLY WENT HOME.





A FEW DAYS LATER THE PANDAVAS HEARD EXCITING NEWS—





THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER,  
DHRISHTADYUMNA ANNOUNCED—

FRIENDS! HERE ARE  
A BOW AND ARROWS  
AND THERE, ABOVE THE  
REVOLVING WHEEL IS  
THE TARGET-A FISH.  
YOU HAVE TO HIT THE  
EYE OF THE FISH,  
LOOKING AT ITS  
REFLECTION IN THE  
WATER BELOW. WHO  
EVER DOES THIS FIVE  
TIMES IN SUCCESSION,  
SHALL WIN THE  
BRIDE.



THE  
PRINCES  
TRIED  
ONE  
AFTER  
ANOTHER  
BUT  
NONE  
COULD  
LIFT  
THE  
HEAVY BOW.

THIS IS NO  
BOW! NO  
MAN CAN  
WIN THE  
TEST!!



DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND  
WHEN HE TRIED TO LIFT THE BOW. LORD  
KRISHNA LOOKED MEANINGFULLY AT  
ARJUNA, HIS COUSIN.



ARJUNA GOT UP FROM  
THE ENCLOSURE OF  
BRAHMAN.



WITH THE PERMISSION OF DHIRISHTADYUMNA, HE LIFTED THE BOW, STRUNG IT, AND SENT FIVE ARROWS IN QUICK SUCCESSION.

EVERY ARROW OF HIS HAS HIT THE TARGET.

FANTASTIC!!



DRAUPADI GARLANDED HIM.



THERE WAS AN UPROAR IN THE HALL. DURYODHANA! WE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS!

YES, SHISHUPALA. IT IS A DISGRACE TO US ALL.



MANY OF THE PRINCES RUSHED TO THE DAIS. BHEEMA CAME TO HELP ARJUNA.

IF ANYONE COMES ONE STEP FURTHER, I WILL SMASH HIS SKULL.

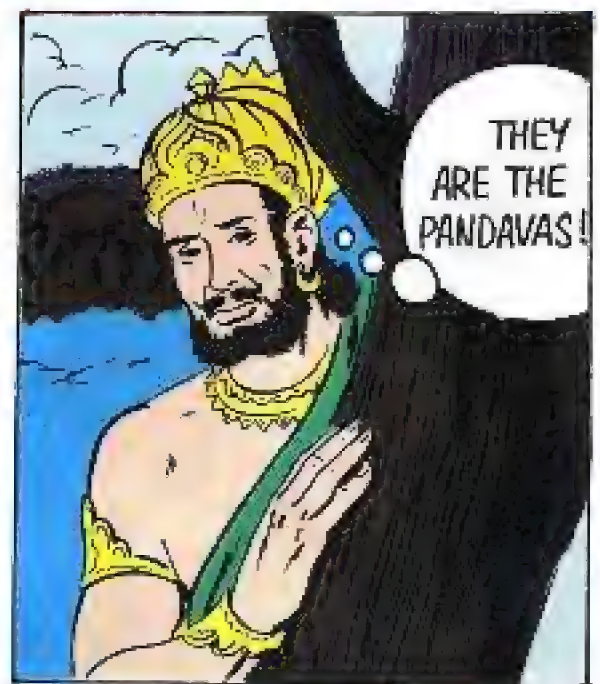




IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS WITH THE NEWLY-WON-BRIDE, LEFT FOR EKACHAKRAPURA. KING DRUPADA, HOWEVER, WAS WORRIED.



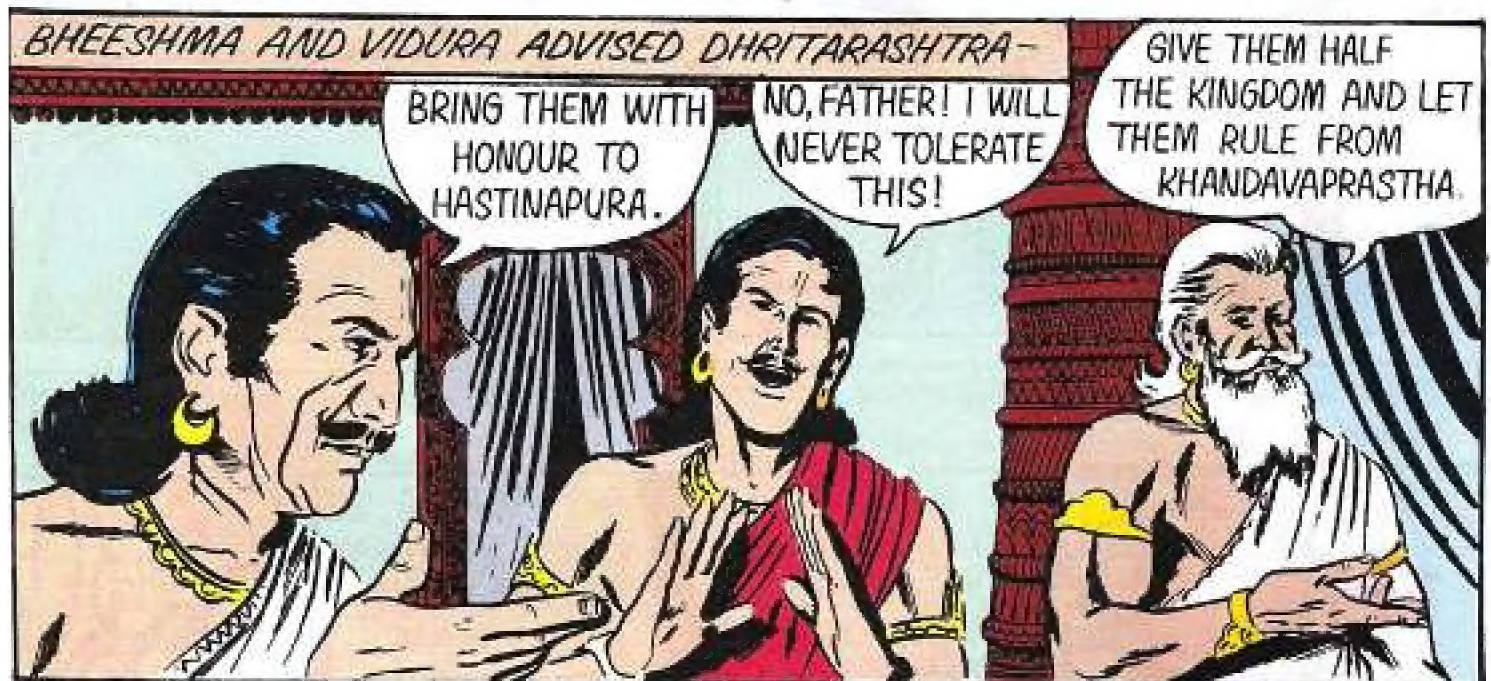
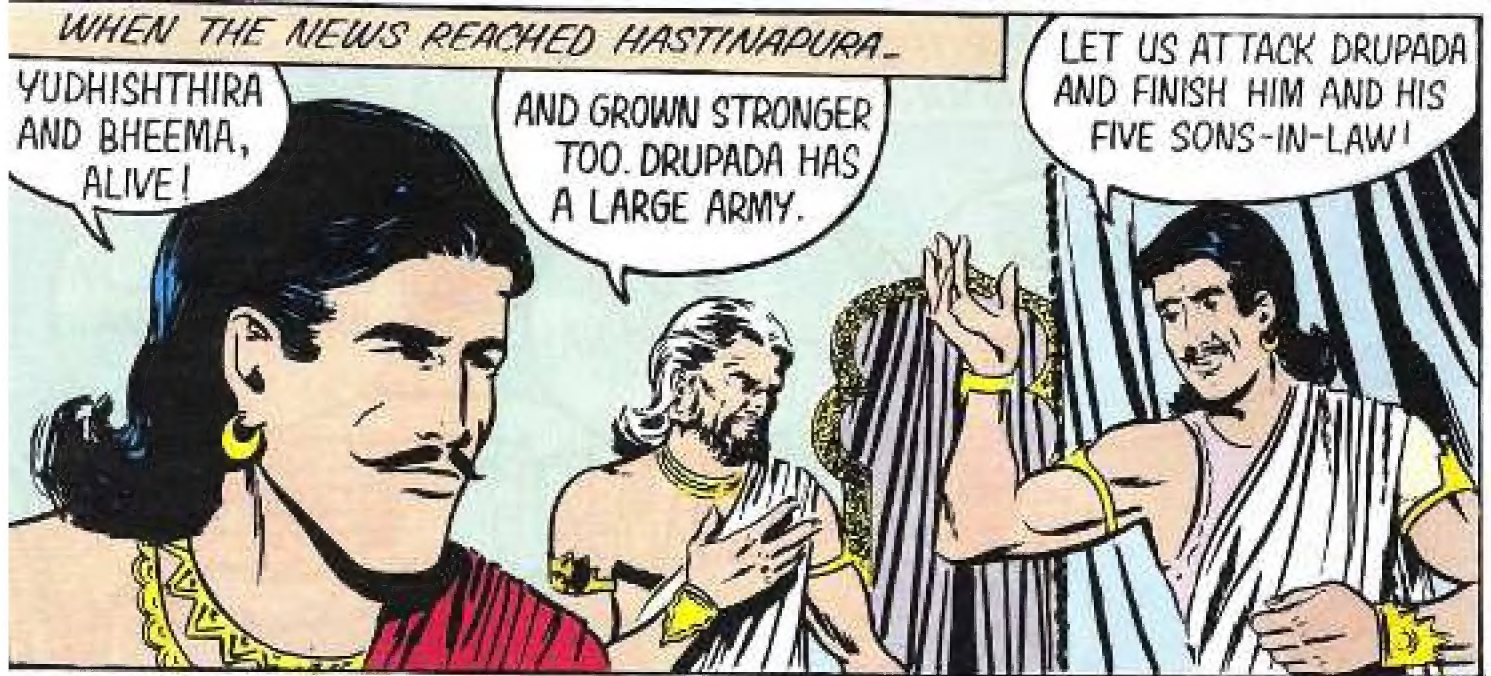
ARJUNA WAS EAGER TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIS MOTHER.



DHRISHTADYUMNA TOLD HIS FATHER ALL THAT HE SAW IN EKACHAKRAPURA.

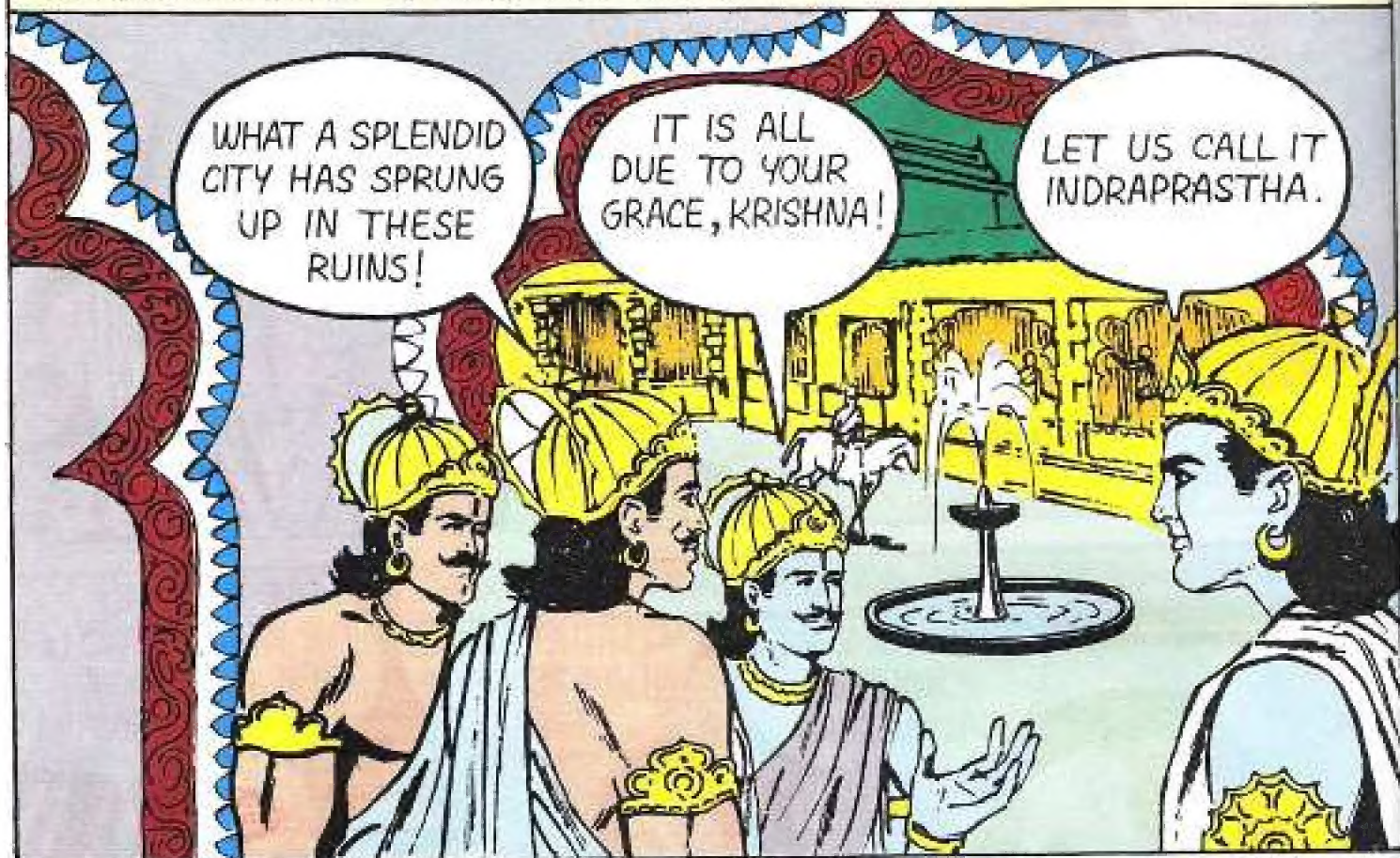




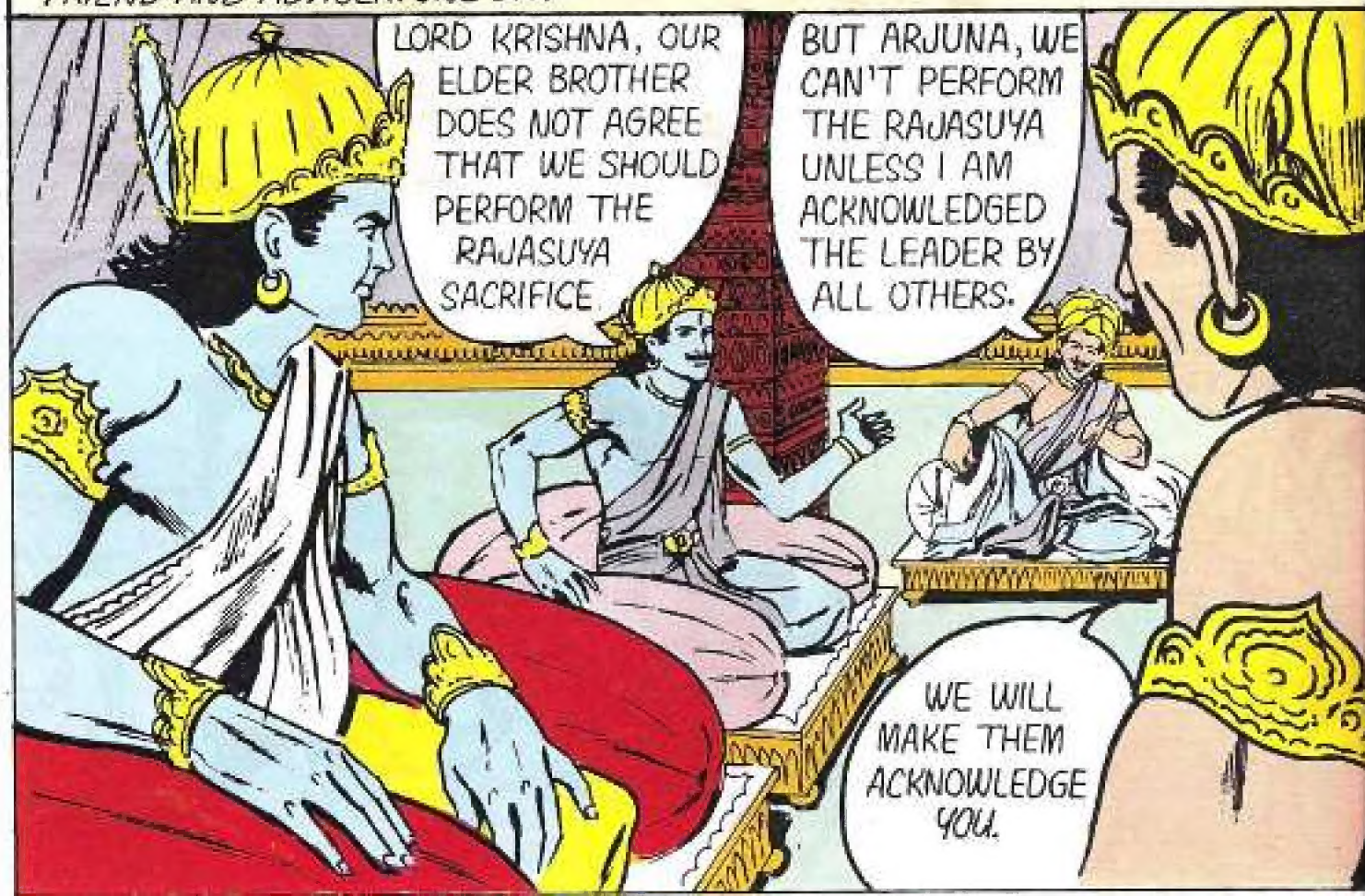




A FEW DAYS AFTER THEIR TRIUMPHANT RETURN, THE PANDAVAS LEFT FOR KHANDAVAPRASTHA TO BUILD A NEW CITY.



THEY RULED FROM INDRAPRASTHA FOR MANY YEARS. LORD KRISHNA WAS THEIR FRIEND AND ADVISER. ONE DAY—





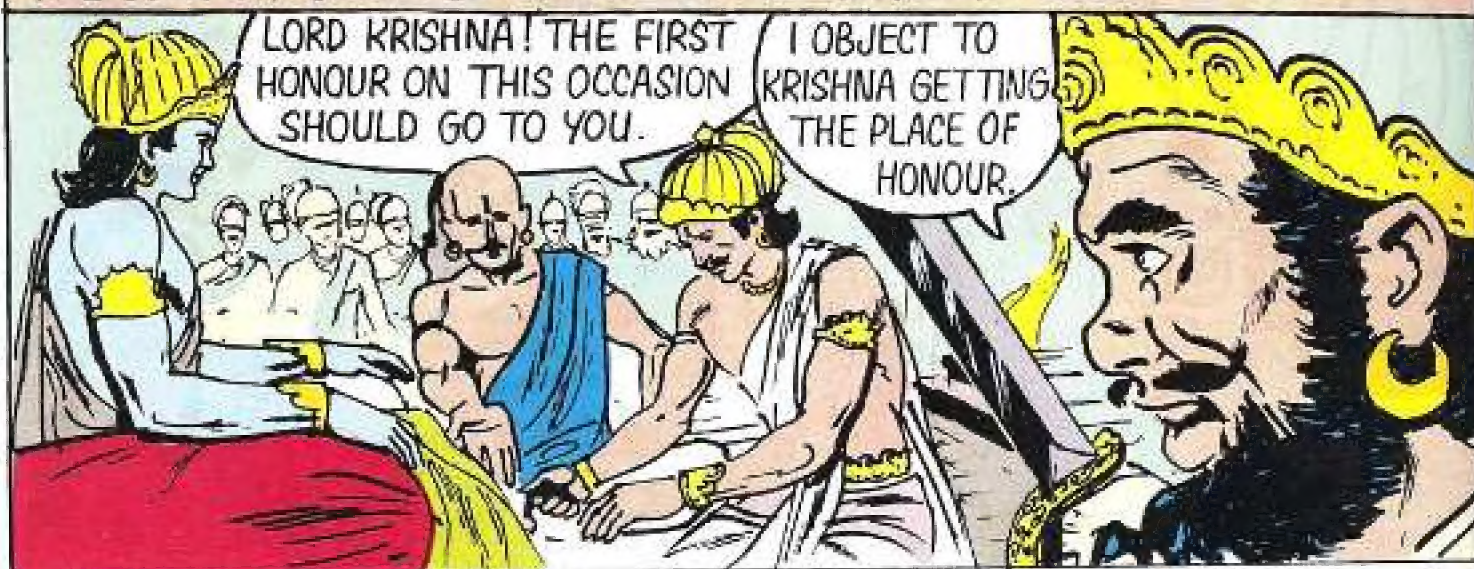


IN THE FIERCE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWED, JARASANDHA WAS KILLED BY BHEEMA.





BHEEMA RETURNED IN TRIUMPH TO INDRAPRASTHA. KINGS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GATHERED TO ATTEND THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE BUT-



AND THE RAJASUYA WAS COMPLETED WHICH MADE THE PANDAVAS SUPREME IN THE COUNTRY. VICTORY TO

